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dilia. Similar differences exist between the Illinois Batrachian and *Dendrerpeton* (Owen); the latter possesses also a double row of teeth. *Hylonomus*, (Dawson), supposed to possess Lacertilian affinities, exhibits ribs and biconcave vertebræ. The ribs of *Telerpeton* will distinguish it also. The only genus as yet known to approach closely that under consideration, has been described by Prof. J. Wyman under the name of *Raniceps*.* This animal is only known from a study of the inferior aspect of a portion of the skeleton; nevertheless it is certainly different, being nearly double the size, and having relatively longer and stronger anterior limbs. The angles of the mandible appear to have been considerably more incurved than in the Illinois species. They may have belonged to the same genus; in that case the name here given will not prove superfluous, as the older appellation was previously applied to a genus of Gadid fishes.

The name *Amphibamus grandiceps* has reference, first, to its two modes of progression; its flattened oar-like tail enabled it to swim in the waters of the swamps of the coal period, and its elongate, clawed digits indicate ambulatory power; perhaps it climbed upon the low limbs of the *Sigillariæ* that rose above the water. The animal was most probably nocturnal in its habits. The humors of the eye could not have escaped far beyond their natural envelopes, so that the subsequently formed limestone has been hardened, and so fractured in nearly the form of the ball. On the fractured surface below and under the remaining palpebral scales, the mineral is distinctly blackened, as by the pigmentum nigrum; below the margin of the lid this is interrupted by a discoid spot of the form and dimensions of an iris, which presents a median lenticular vacuity, again revealing the pigment, obviously the vertical pupil of a nocturnal animal. The preservation of the outline of color is certainly remarkable in a specimen of such great antiquity. A somewhat parallel case occurs in the preservation of the ink-bags of the *Sepiæ*; these do not date further back than the Jurassic. These appearances cannot be explained on any supposition of artificial production.

August 1st.

MR. CASSIN, Vice President, in the Chair.

Twelve members present.

The following paper was read and referred to a committee:

"Descriptions of new species of fossil Crinoidea, &c." By F. B. Meek and A. H. Worthen.

August 8th.

DR. RUSCHENBERGER, in the Chair.

Ten members present.

The following papers were read and referred to committees:

"Notes on a species of Whale found in the River Delaware." By E. D. Cope.

"On some Conirostral Birds from Costa Rica." By John Cassin.

* Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts, 1858, p. 158.